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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/128,251 08/03/98 MATSUI

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EXAMINER

CHIEU, P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED:

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/128,251

Applicant(s)

MATSUI, IZUMI

Examiner

Polin Chieu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 13, line 5 "table memory 217" should be "table memory 211" and on page 13, line 17 "RGB conversion circuit 211" should be "RGB conversion circuit 221".

Appropriate correction is required.

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show "301" as described in the specification on page 10, line 24. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities: "said compressing means" on lines 2-3 of the claim have no antecedent basis. The examiner has assumed that the claim should read "said expanding means". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-6, 12-16, 20, and 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata in view of Parulski et al.

Yamagata discloses a compressing means (44) for compressing a video signal using a memory (M) in figure 2. However, Yamagata does not disclose a generating means. Parulski et al discloses a generating means generating character information using the memory (col. 2, lines 15-30). It would have been highly desirable to have a generating means so that the users could add text to the images. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have a character generator and a video signal in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 2, Yamagata does not disclose a combining means for combining the character signal and the video signal. Parulski et al discloses overlaying

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text on an image (col. 4, lines 55-67), so a combining means must be inherent. It would have been highly desirable to have a combining means so that text could be overlaid on an image. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention a combining means in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 3, Yamagata does not disclose that the compressing means compresses a video signal output from the combining means. Paruluski et al discloses, in an alternate embodiment, that the output of the combining means (20) combining the character signal (20a) and the image signal (18) is compressed (22) in figure 2. It would have been highly desirable to have so that the text data is compressed with the image data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the compressing done after combining in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 4, Yamagata discloses an outputting means (42) for outputting the compressed video signal to a recording device (42) to be recorded on a recording medium (M) in figure 2.

Regarding claim 5, Yamagata discloses an outputting device (43) for displaying the video signal in figure 2.

Regarding claim 6, Yamagata discloses an image pickup means (21) in figure 2. Further, as discussed in the art rejection of claim 2, Parulski et al discloses a combining means combining a character signal with an image.

Regarding claim 12, Yamagata discloses an expanding means (44) for a video signal in figure 2. However, Yamagata does not disclose a generating means. The

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generating means was discussed in the art rejection of claim 1. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 1.

The limitations disclosed in claim 13 were discussed in the art rejection of claim 2. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 2.

Regarding claim 14, Yamagata does not disclose combining the video signal with the expanded video signal. Parulski et al discloses a combining means as discussed in the art rejection of claim 2. It would have been highly desirable to combine the character signal with the expanded video signal so that text could be overlaid. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have a combining means in Yamagata.

The limitations disclosed in claim 15 were discussed in the art rejection of claim 4. Note that the compression means (44) is the same as the expansion means (44) in figure 2 of Yamagata. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 4.

Regarding claim 16, Yamagata discloses an inputting means for inputting a signal reproduced from a recording medium (M) and writing the reproduced video signal into the memory (M) in figure 2 (col. 4, lines 4-16). Yamagata further discloses expanding the signal (col. 4, lines 4-16).

Regarding claim 20, the examiner notes that compressing means disclosed in claim 1 is a form of a processing means. Therefore, the art rejection of claim 1 also meets the limitations of claim 20. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 1.

Regarding claim 29, the compressing means and generating means were discussed in the art rejection of claim 1. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 1.

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Yamagata discloses a memory (M) and a recording means for recording on a recording medium (M) that has been compressed (col. 4, lines 4-16) by the compressing means (44) in figure 2.

The limitations recited in claim 30 were discussed in the art rejection of claim 2. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 2.

Regarding claim 31, the compressing means compressing an amount of information of a combined video signal outputted from the combining means was discussed in the art rejection of claim 3. Yamagata discloses a recording means in (col. 4, lines 4-16).

Regarding claim 32, Yamagata discloses a displaying means (col. 3, lines 26-31).

Regarding claim 33, Yamagata discloses a reproducing from a recording medium (M) the amount that has been compressed, and writing the reproduced signal into the memory (M) in figure 2 (col. 4, lines 4-16).

Regarding claim 34, the expanding means was discussed in the art rejection of claim 12, and the combining means was discussed in the art rejection of claim 14.

Please refer to the art rejections of claims 12 and 14.

8. Claims 7, 8, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata in view of Parulski et al and Ota.

Yamagata discloses a memory with a first area for a video signal to be compressed in figure 3. However, Yamagata does not disclose a second area for a compressed video signal and a third area used to generate the character signal.

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Parulski et al discloses a memory with a first area (24a) and a third area (24b) used to generate the character signal in figure 2 (col. 5, lines 9-31). It would have been highly desirable to have a third area so that the user could store category information (col. 5, 9-31). Ota discloses a memory with a first area (14) and a second area for storing a compressed signal (15) in figure 1. It would have been highly desirable to store a compressed signal (or thumbnail image) so that the user could quickly see the contents of the memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have a second area and a third area in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 8, Yamagata discloses an outputting means for reading out from the second area, and having a recording device record on a recording medium (col. 4, lines 4-16).

Regarding claim 17, Yamagata discloses a memory with a first area for a video signal that has been expanded in figure 3. However, Yamagata does not disclose a second area for a video signal to be expanded and a third area used to generate the character signal. Parulski et al discloses a memory with a first area (24a) and a third area (24b) used to generate the character signal in figure 2 (col. 5, lines 9-31). It would have been highly desirable to have a third area so that the user could store category information (col. 5, 9-31). Ota discloses a memory with a first area (14) and a second area for storing a signal (15) to be expanded in figure 1. It would have been highly desirable to store an image to be expanded (or thumbnail image) so that the user could quickly see the contents of the memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a

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person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have a second area and a third area in Yamagata.

9. Claims 9, 10, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata in view of Parulski et al, Ota, and Honda.

Yamagata discloses a first area to be accessed by the compression means. However, Yamagata does not disclose a second area corresponding to an image plane represented by the video signal; that the generating means comprises memory control means for writing into the second area a plurality of codes representing a value of pixel data of the character signal; and a table for outputting pixel data corresponding to codes read out from said second area. As discussed in the art rejection of claim 7, Parulski et al discloses a second area (discloses as the third area in claim 7) in which a character signal is stored. Clearly the character signal must also store information on where the character data will be placed in the image plane; therefore, it is inherent that the second area correspond to an image plane represented by the video signal. Further Parulski et al discloses generating character data (col. 2, lines 4-30) which must represent a value of pixel data, and storing it into a second area (24b) in figure 2. Parulski et al does not discloses a table for outputting pixel data corresponding to the codes read out from the second area. Honda discloses a table (17) outputting pixel data in figure 2. Further, since the table creates the text to be overlaid on the image the pixel data must correspond to the codes read out from the second area. It would have been highly desirable to have a second area in which pixel data is written so that text can be overlaid on an image. In addition, a table would be desirable so that a table of text

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could be stored and easily generated. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have a second area and a table in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 10, the combining means was discussed in the art rejection of claim 2. Yamagata does not disclose codes representing control data. Parulski et al discloses a combining means, as discussed in claim 2, for combining character and image data. Parulski et al discloses storing the character (24b) and image (24a) data separately in figure 2. Therefore, there must be codes representing control data for controlling the combining operation of the combining means, wherein the combining means performs the combining operation in accordance with the codes for the device to perform the overlaying of text onto an image as disclosed. It would have been highly desirable to have a combining means and codes representing control data so that text could be overlaid on an image. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a combining means and codes representing control data in Yamagata.

Claims 18 and 19 are considered to be similar to claims 9 and 10; however, expansion occurs in place of compression. Since Yamagata discloses an expansion device (44) in figure 4, the art rejections would be similar to the art rejections of claims 9 and 10. Please refer to the art rejections of claim 9 and 10.

10. Claims 11, 21, 22, 25, and 26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata in view of Parulski et al and Yonemitsu et al.

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Yamagata does not disclose an orthogonal transform means, a quantization means, and a variable-length coding (VLC) means. Yonemitsu et al discloses an orthogonal transform means (23), a quantization means (24), and a VLC means (25) in figure 23. Orthogonal transform, quantization, and VLC are all well known coding methods in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have an orthogonal transform means, a quantization means, and a VLC means in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 21, the limitation of claim 11 discloses a high efficiency encoding means. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 11.

Regarding claim 22, compression is considered to be a step in high-efficiency encoding. The limitations of claim 7 disclose a first area to be accessed for compression, and a second area (note that it is called the third area in claim 7) for generating a character signal. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 7.

Regarding claim 25, the limitation of claim 11 discloses a high efficiency encoding means. If the apparatus had the high efficiency encoding means of claim 11 it would also need a high efficiency decoding means to properly process the data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have a high efficiency decoder in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 26, expansion is considered to be a step in high-efficiency decoding. The limitations of claim 17 disclose a first area to be accessed for expansion, and a second area (note that it is called the third area in claim 7) for generating a character signal. Please refer to the art rejection of claim 17.

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11. Claims 23, 24, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata in view of Parulski et al, Yonemitsu et al, and Jeong.

Yamagata does not disclose error-correction-encoding. Jeong discloses error-correction-encoding (col. 4, lines 5-50). It would have been highly desirable to have error-correction-coding so that errors are corrected. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have error-correction coding in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 24, Yamagata discloses a memory with a first area for a video signal to be accessed by the high-efficiency encoding means in figure 3. However, Yamagata does not disclose a second area to be accessed by and error correction encoding means and a third area used to generate the character signal. Parulski et al discloses a memory with a first area (24a) and a third area (24b) used to generate the character signal in figure 2 (col. 5, lines 9-31). It would have been highly desirable to have a third area so that the user could store category information (col. 5, 9-31). Jeong discloses a second area (310) to be accessed by the error correction encoding means (col. 4, lines 5-50) in figure 3. It would have been highly desirable to have a second area for error correction so that errors could be corrected in the image. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have a second area and a third area in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 27, Yamagata does not disclose error-correction-decoding. Jeong discloses error-correction-decoding (col. 4, lines 5-50). It would have been highly desirable to have error-correction-decoding so that errors are corrected. Therefore, it

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would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have error-correction coding in Yamagata.

Regarding claim 28, Yamagata discloses a memory with a first area for a video signal to be accessed by the high-efficiency decoding means in figure 3. However, Yamagata does not disclose a second area to be accessed by and error correction decoding means and a third area used to generate the character signal. Parulski et al discloses a memory with a first area (24a) and a third area (24b) used to generate the character signal in figure 2 (col. 5, lines 9-31). It would have been highly desirable to have a third area so that the user could store category information (col. 5, 9-31). Jeong discloses a second area (310) to be accessed by the error correction decoding means (col. 4, lines 5-50) in figure 3. It would have been highly desirable to have a second area for error correction so that errors could be corrected in the image. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention have a second area and a third area in Yamagata.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Polin Chieu whose telephone number is (703) 308-6070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM-6:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

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308-6306 for regular communications and (703) 308-6306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

PC
May 7, 2001


WENDY R. GARBER
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